critical digest

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Jan 9, 1961 Vol XII No 42 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year- Published 52 weeks a year $25 per year

This Week in NYC

NY Shakespeare Festival passed one hurdle and got ready for another. After first postponing decision the NYC Board of Education approved Romeo and Juliet tour of 80 NYC high schools starting Jan 23 to May 1. Joe Papp's production will also play week-end performances at colleges and community centers within one hour travel time of NYC. Previews for sponsors will be held starting Jan 9 at Hecksher Theatre, 103rd & 5th Av. The new problem concerns the group's proposed new Central Park amphitheatre which is to be constructed by this summer. NYC Board of Estimate had originally approved a $225,000 budget, but the recently opened bids reveal the lowest estimate at $370,820. Another meeting of the Board of Estimate will be required to furnish any additional money.

Plays

Send Me No Flowers closed after 40 performances... The Hostage closed after 127 performances. Equity Council rejected producers' request to move it Off Broadway... The Conquering Hero postponed ANTA Theatre debut from Jan 11 to Jan 16... Bye Bye Birdie moves from 54th St to Shubert Jan 16... The Music Man started Sun matinees, providing three matinees per week, omitting Mon eve performances... Wandering Man musical with Nat King Cole has cancelled plans for Feb try after folding in Detroit in Nov... Viva! a new musical based on "Viva Villa!" film to be presented this season by Ted Man-Frank Productions... How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying a new musical by Abe Burrows, Frank Loesser, Jack Weinstock, Willie Gilbert to be presented next season by Cy Feuer-Ernest Martin-Frank Productions, starring Robert Morse... Mind of an Assassin a new play based on the novel by Isaac Don Levine about Trotsky's death will be presented next season by Jule Styne, Arthur Loew, Jr, Elliot Hyman, directed by Garson Kanin.. Alex Cohen's "Nine O Clock Theatre" will open next Oct 8, with an international revue including Diana Dors, Amalia Rodrigues, Jean Marc Thailbult and Roger Pierre

Special Events

Jan 17 Greater NY Chapter ANTA Matinee series at Theatre De Lys will feature Richard Burton, Cathleen Nesbitt and Walter Abel reading selections from their favorite poets..

Drama Desk

Jan 9 meeting of "Drama Desk" to consider "Broadway Humor" with Lucille Ball, Phil Silvers, Zero Mostel, David Wayne, Otto Preminger, Menasha Skulnik

NYC Calendar

Rhinoceros- Longacre 1/9 Leo Kerz- 7 Arts Associates presents new play by Eugene Ionesco, directed by Joseph Anthony with Eli Wallach, Zero Mostel, Anne Jackson, Morris Carnovsky.

The Sudden End of Anne Cinquefoil - East End (85 E 4)- 1/10. Theatre 1961- Richard Barr present new play by Richard Hepburn, directed by Jack Sydow with Priscilla Morrill, Alan Ansara.

Show Girl- O'Neill 1/12. Oliver Smith-James Doolittle-Charles Lowe-present new revue with music, lyrics, sketches, direction by Charles Gaynor, with Carol Channing, Jules Munshin, Les Quat' Jeudis.

Players

Suzanne Pleschette will replace Anne Bancroft, The Miracle Worker, on Feb 6 when latter leaves to make film version... Carolyn Brenner subbed for Martha Scott, The 49th Cousin, who missed one performance due to a cold .... Charles Nelson Reilly subbed for Dick Van Dyke, Bye Bye Birdie, who missed a holiday mid-week matinee when he trapped in midtown traffic jam. ... Eduardo Cianelli, Olive Deering, Teresa Hughes, Boris Tumarin signed for The Devil's Advocate... Jenny Lou Law, who had just returned from a 10 week USO European tour, died at her father's home in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Theatre TV Notes

WNTA (NY) Play of the Week Jan 9 to present The Potting Shed with Ann Harding... "The NTA Revue-Sketch Book-New York" an original musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt will be presented on Play of Week. Starting Jan 19 the telecast will be presented Thur, Fri, Sat at 10 35, and Mon, Tues, Wed at 8 30 PM.

Theatre Film Notes

MGM film version of The Golden Fleecing has been retitled "Honeymoon Machine."

Theatre Book Notes

La Ronde new translation of the Arthur Schnitzler play by Off Broadway co-producers Patricia Newhall and Hans Weigert to be published by Random House... Becket translation of Jean Anouilh drama by Lucienne Hill published by Coward McCann ($3 cloth -$1.50 paper back.)

Off Broadway

Borak closed after 31 performances ... Too Poor to Die one man musical with Timmie Rogers due Jan 16 at Jan Hus was postponed... White Cargo director Roger Sullivan resigned several hours prior to drama's opening night. Reviewers were informed via telegram that he left due to producer Nita Frawley's "arbitrary decision to bring in Sam Rosen to make drastic changes in pace, interpretation and staging."

CBS TV bought out entire house for Thur performance of Ballet Ballads at cost of $907 to allow Carmen de Lavallade to complete "Porgy and Bess" sequence in Florida for Jan 15 "The Gershwin Years."

The Octoroon opens at Phoenix Jan 27 following special two week return of She Stoops to Conquer ... The Buskers a new play by Kenneth Jupp to be presented in Feb by Amnon Kabatchnik and Lois Bianchi... Double Entry twin bill of two short musicals by Jay Thompson will be presented Feb 13 by Oscar & George Marienthal, Albert Lasher, Paul Lehman, directed by Bill Penn... Merchant of Venice production of Gate Repertory Company postponed because of director Boris Tumarin's acceptnace of role in The Devil's Advocate. New production will be picked for Mar.

William Daniels returned to cast of The Zoo Story... Carla Huston and Gene Rupert replaced Rita Gardner and Jerry Orbach, The Fantasticks... Virginia Payne replaced Margaretta Warwick, The Mousetrap... Richard Woods and Ronald Bishop joined Donogoo Tonka ... Rae Allen replaced Dorothy Patten, Drums Under the Window... Brock Peters assigned title role in The King of the Dark Chamber.

American Youth Theatre Repertory Workshop established by William Davis, Brooklyn public school teacher, to tour high schools with student casts of Little Women, Tom Sawyer and The Pirates of Penzance, starting next fall.

Theatre Ad Notes

"It's hot, sex all the time" says single quote ad of White Cargo quoting Kerr, Herald Tribune... Send Me No Flowers displayad featured reprint of letter from Nathan Straus, Station WMCA(NY) president to David Wayne ... La Ronde ad prior to closing on New Year's Day thanked public for keeping show open the four seasons.

(Late NYC News- See Supplement)

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Ballet Ballads- East 74 St- 1/3. 4 pro- Times, News, World Telegram & Sun, Journal American, - and 2 con- Herald Tribune, Post- filed on revival of 1948 trio of dance and song stories by John Latouche and Jerome Moross, presented by Ethel Madsen Watt, directed by Mavis Ray, John Butler, Glen Tetley with Veronika Mlakar, Carmen de Lavallade, Jack Mette. Affirmative voters generally enjoyed the "Willie the Weeper" and "The Eccentricities of Davy Crockett" numbers better than "Riding Hood Revisited" and all raved for dancer Carmen de Lavallade. Negative voters complimented production, but feared it wasn't much fun. Taubman, Times, enjoyed all but "Riding Hood", the rest has lively, delightful, atmospheric moments, with the final score gratifying. Chapman, News, recommended out-of-the ordinary combination of song, story and dance admirably presented. Aston, WTS, cheered for the scrumptious revival, worth whatever fuss it may have cost, a sprightly crew presenting a lively evening. McClain, Journal American, rated it small and special, a lot of it just brilliant with a quality of its own and performed by a young and exceptionally gifted company. He marked "Willie the Weeper" number as alone worth the visit. Dissenter Watts, Post, especially approved of de Lavallade in her two brief, exciting appearances, but had to report that most of the exhilarating freshness of the original seems to have been sacrificed, with a kind of stately gravity substituted for its former gaiety. Kerr, Herald Tribune, agreed it is staffed attractively and beautifully framed, but production keeps promising first one thing and then another without being free to fulfill the promise wholly either way.

White Cargo- Players- 12/29. 1 pro- News- and 5 con- Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American and World Telegram & Sun - filed on revival of 1923 drama by Leon Gordon, adapted and updated by Jed Hudson, staged by Sam Rosen, who replaced at the last moment Roger Sullivan, presented by Rio Kem Productions with Jed Hudson, Marcia Howard. Sole mild pro was from Davis, News, who approved of performances and found the play itself interesting. Majority panned almost everything in sight. Gelb, Times, excused only the director who quite from his con notice, remarking he was the smart one. Only cast member to breathe any life into show is Charles Harrigan, Gelb added. Kerr, Herald Tribune, sole try at criticism was to remark that the native girl's navel was the best of many on display. Watts, Post, was amazed at the repulsive miracle the producers achieved by making the play even worse than it was originally. McClain, Journal American, doesn't care who the director is, the result is a sumptuous and sweaty consideration of a theme that has become dated. Aston, WTS, panned it as elemental, harsh, profane and vulgar.

LONDON REPORT

A Midsummer Night's Dream production at Old Vic directed by Michael Langham does finely with the romantics and unevenly with everyone else, rates Tynan, Herald Tribune ...Twelfth Night presented by Stratford- upon-Avon company at Aldwch listed by Herald Tribune aisle sitter as a triumph only for Dorothy Tutin as "Viola", not for Peter Hall's direction or the other cast members.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS

Irma La Douce original cast disc (Columbia) has in addition to a set of witty lyrics, jauntily scored and sung with a great sense of style, an over-all sense of atmosphere projected to the home listener, approves Wilson, Times ...The Unsinkable Molly Brown original cast album (Capitol) is successful more for the merits of Tammy Grimes than the composer, Times reviewer comments. Grimes has an astonishing sweet and sour voice that adds a personal touch that gives the recording much of its life and vitality...Tenderloin original cast album (Capitol) comes across via disc as a group of disjointed set pieces with little cumulative continuity, vetoes Times record man.

An Evening With Mike Nichols and Elaine May album (Mercury) recommended by both Watt, News, and Schreiber, World Telegram & Sun. Former noted disc company has taken down the Broadway show for posterity and for those unable to get seats, while latter enjoyed the four long items filled with wit and laughter.

TV THEATRE COMMENTS

A Clearing in the Woods (WNTA Play of the Week) with Celeste Holm, Arthur Hill, Nancy Malone, Barbara Dana in Arthur Laurents 1957 Broadway play drew split notices from three NY TV critics. Bakal, Herald Tribune, enjoyed it as an interesting, off-beat evening, still a mystifying offering which comes off better and with more clarity on TV screen than on stage. Gardella, News, admitted she did not find the psychological conflict of fantasy clear because she was forced to miss the first 30 minutes. Shanley, Times, panned it as a bad play.

INTER-VIEW HI-LITES

IRVING CHESKIN, new executive director of League of NY Theatres, hopes to find the means by which theatre through unified action can expand the range of its present audience, with particular emphasis on the young, he told Little Herald Tribune. He would also consider it a League obligation to stimulate the production of better plays for Broadway, as he feels theatre should contribute more to the general cultural life of the city.

ETHEL MADSEN WATT, producer of Ballet Ballads, didn't have any of the problems entitled in Critic's Choice, she told Cleaves, World Telegram & Sun. Her husband, Doug Watt, music reviewer of NY News, stayed far away from the rehearsals, but prior to the opening did file a private review for her. Many of his suggestions she put to use.

RICHARD HEPBURN, author of The Sudden End of Anne Cinquefoil, lists his play as his 13th written and second produced, he told Herridge, Post. 49 year old brother of Katharine Hepburn's first NY production was 25 years ago, The Death of Capitalism by Stupefaction.

TED MANN, co-producer of Circle in the Square, explains the running of an Off Broadway theatre as simply work, haphazard hours, a lust for gambling, irregular meals, fatigue, drafts, dust, disappointments and more work, he told Aston, WTS. Circle celebrates its 10th birthday in Feb.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

CONSTRUCTIVE PLAYGOING... Do-it-yourself methods to make theatre going bright, more soothing, more gracious and even heart lifting, suggested by Kerr, Herald Tribune. Seeing a bad movie in a large, empty house the night before attending a Broadway play, talking to the cab driver all the way to the theatre instead of the other way around, and planning play going in a week in which you expect to beat somebody out of something listed. Reviewer urged readers to use imagination to evolve own methods.

COLUMN TIPS... Claudette Colbert's firm control of Julia Jake and Uncle Joe is the reason Luba Malina left, hears Kilgallen, Journal American... Anthony Quinn is planning a Latin theatre-restaurant for NY, notes Coleman, Mirror... The two on-stage couples in Period of Adjustment are not on speaking terms off stage, whispers Lyons, Post.

BAD INFLUENCES... Chekhov, Stanislavski, Brecht are bad influences are modern playwrights and actors, charges Coleman, Mirror. The two Russians were masters in their respective fields, but they were in the sidestream of the eternal theatre. Both actors and writers today are afraid of expressing honest sentiment. Brecht, the most primitive of propagandists, has been successful in US only on leftist stages. Playgoers today want a theatre of affirmation, a theatre that tells us that life is worth living and why.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Why doesn't anyone smile during curtain calls, wonders Slocum, Mirror... Aston, WTS, hopes The Conquering Hero orchestra will try a noveltry for season-not cracking eardrums of first five rows..... After viewing several of the beat players Davis, News, thinks Off Broadway playhouses need more showers backstage.

AWARD GUESSES... Do Re Mi or Advise and Consent will win the Pulitizer Prize and All the Way Home the NY Drama Critics Circle honor, predicts Wilson, Post

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Plays, films and TV programs which depict persecuted minorities in a bad light do so for an obvious propaganda purpose, states Journal American reader. Item under fire was making leading man of Wildcat a drinking Irishman... Showcase theatre backed by actors, producers, directors, theatre owners to present new experimental plays at 50c admission suggested by Times reader.

TALENT TIP... 16 year old twins Andre and Adrienne Gray recommended by McClain, Journal American, as two extremely bright and good looking youngsters who would enliven anybody's summer playhouse.

SECOND GUESSES... Camelot pleasures began for Chapman, News after the opening. Since he has played the original cast album several times and his admiration for both the music and lyrics has deepened. It is Loewe's best work, being rich musically and delightfully varied... In the Jungles of Cities Living Theatre production of Brecht drama Judith Malina's brilliant staging has done much to clear up the script's obscurities and confusions, turning a maddening drama into exciting theatre, applauds Watts, Post ... Do Re Mi is brash, bouncy and blaring, with an enormous amount of credit due director Garson Kanin, okays McClain, Journal American.

OFF BWAY RAVE... The Off stage character in Critic's Choice, Harvey Rittenhouse, who reviews Off Broadway only and misses all the awful Broadway shows really isn't missing much, but he is probably too far gone to know it, guesses Taubman, Times. At its best aspirations are high Off Broadway and standards professional.

PROS & CONS BY TMK

Epitaph for George Dillon is an uneven, but always interesting revival of the recent John Osborne-Anthony Creighton drama that gets better as the evening progresses. Two leading players- James Patterson and Julia Follansbee- are excellent in extremly difficult roles. The minor characters start out taking the script much too literally and present themselves as British cartoons, but finally emerge in the last act as human beings. Slight changes in the script have tended to dull some of the bitterness of the title character, and are never fully believable.

* *

Ballet Ballads is a handsome trio of pleasant song-dance stories, an ambitious Off Broadway attempt filled with many talented singers and dancers. If the stories presented are never as lively or humorous as the composers intended, much credit still must go to the ingenious production putting the comfortable playhouse with its immense two level stage to imaginative use.

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Three matinees per week were started this week by The Music Man, an ideal choice to attract the Sunday family trade. Other Broadway producers might wisely follow the lead of their Off Broadway colleagues who long ago gave up the sparsely attended Mon evening performances for two Sun productions. Up until now playing a Sun matinee has usually been the sign of a fading box-office, and the two current examples, The 49th Cousin and The Music Man, are no exceptions to the rule. But it is time a new formula were established to benefit the ticket buyers rather than the producers. Both would profit in the long run.

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Unquestionably the means of the Communists are devious, but it does seem rather unlikely that Wildcat is part of the international plot as a Journal American reader suggests. Making the leading player an Irishman who likes his whisky is more convenient than Communistic.

* *

70 productions have been presented in NY from Sept 1 to Dec 31 this season, 28 On Broadway and 42 Off Broadway. This does not count a half dozen or so one night and/or matinee stands. By anybody's estimates this proves that Off Broadway is here to stay. The Off-stage character Harvey Rittenhouse in Critic's Choice, already the subject of several critical essays, may well develop into a folk character of NY theatre. But still many who consider themselves true theatre fans never venture to the smaller playhouses inspite of the continued raves for long-running hits. This is not their fault. It is the fault of the Off Broadway theatre producers who have failed in several attempts to organize their talents, efforts and money in an over-all advertising and public relations campaign. To put it bluntly--the time never will be riper.

* *

Perhaps the way to really put Off Broadway over would be to get President Kennedy to visit a downtown theatre. Anything but The Connection.

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After several years of celebrating the Civil War in prose, poem and play, it will be a delight to honor the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 1964. By then it will certainly be proved that the Bard of Avon was not a Russian spy and the NY Shakespeare Festival in its new summer location will be able to give their favorite author his due.

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Jan 9, 1961 NYC THEATRE FACT CHART- CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E 47, NYC-- EL 5-6894

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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway & Off Broadway shows. Top week endprices, opening dates listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7NYC reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past weeks. Thus 100% B Cap $80-$80- means show was a sellout this week at $80000, last week's gross was $70,000, etc.

* NOTE: Grosses are from previous week, not last week.

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ADVISE & CONSENT Cort $7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	70% C- 2 Con- Times, Post- 4 raves 90% B - Cap $40--$33 $36 $38 $38 $38
ALL WAY HOME Belasco $7.50 11/30/60	111 W 44 JU 6-7950	70% C- 2 Con- News, WTS 40% B - Cap $38--$14 $15 $26
BECKET Royale $7.50 10/5/60	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	90% C- 4 raves-1 Con- Times X B- Cap $59- X- Moved from St James
BEST MAN Morosco $7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 55% B- Cap $40--$23 $20 $29 $26 $28
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St $8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con- Times- raves from rest 75% B- Cap $60--$46 $37 $49 $51 $52
CAMELOT Majestic $9.40 12/3/60	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	40% C- 3 Pro- News, WTS, J Am 100% B- Cap $83--$84 $84 $83 $82 $82
CRITICS CHOICE Barrymore $7.50 12/14/60	247 W 47 CI 6-0390	40% C- 3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 50% B- Cap $40--$22 $22
DO RE MI St James $9.40 12/26/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 1 Con- WTS 5 raves-Times mild 100% C- Cap $69--$69
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 80% B- Cap $58--$47 $43 $54 $55 $55
49th COUSIN Ambass $6.90 10/27/60	215 W 45 CO 5-1855	30% C- 2 Pro- Times, News 50% B- Cap $32--$15 $21 $24 $23 $22 $22
GYPSY Imperial $9.40 5/2/59	249 W45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book X- Cap $64-- X $24 $29 $29 #39 $47
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box $7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 35% B- Cap $40--$13 $21 $29 $23 $24
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth $8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap $49--$48 $48 $49 $45 $49
MIKE & ELAINE Golden $6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap $30--$30 $26 $30 $30 $30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves- Times, WTS milder 65% B - Cap $38--$25 $21 $30 $28 $31 $33
MUSIC MAN Broadway $8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves H Trib milder 30% B- Cap $72--$25 $25 $34 $30 $44
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls 50% B- Cap $70--$35 $28 $40 $40 $48 $45
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes $7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C- 2 Con- Times, WTS 30% B - Cap $43--$14 $15 $24 $23 $27
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $74--$75 $75 $75 $75 $75
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum $6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 55% B- Cap $32--$18 $19 $25 $28 $25 $26
TENDERLOIN 46th St $8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro- News, WTS (both raves) 55 % B- Cap $64--$36 $47 $60 $60 $54
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves-Times, News 50% B- Cap $32--$16 $11 $15 $14 $18 $16
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 35% B- Cap $40--$12 $12 $16 $15 $19
UNDER YUM YUM Miller $7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	40% C- 3 Pro- News, Times, WTS 25% B- Cap $40--$10 $12 $16 $15 $19
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden $9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 85% B- Cap $68--$52 $60 $65 $56 $63
THE WALL Rose $7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro- raves-Times, News, WTS 30% B - Cap $46--$15 $15 $20 $21 $23
WILDCAT Alvin $9.40 12/16/60	250W 52 CI 5-5226	40% C- 3 Pro- News, Mir, WTS 85% B- Cap$65--$58

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-9450	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BEAUTIFUL DREAMER Mad Av $4.60 12/27/60	120 Mad. MU 6-8574	5 Pro- 1 Con- J Am (No Mirror)
BALLET BALLADS East 74- $4.40 1/3/61	334 E 74 LE 5-5557	4 Pro- Times, News, WTS, J Am 2 Con- H Trib, Post
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane $4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm. CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
EPITAPH G. DILLON Actor Play $4.60 12/28/60	100-7th Av S OR 4-1036	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib, (No Mirror)
HEDDA GABLER 4th St $4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves Anne Meacham
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket $4.60 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- (No Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
THE MIRACLE Bway Chapel 12/4/60	211 W 56 CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Times- 1 Con- WTS Sun 5 PM Only to 2/5
MOUSETRAP Maidman $5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- News, WTS
PREMISE Premise $4.60 11/22/60	154 Bleecker LF 3-5020	3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 3 Con- Times, H Trib, Post
RULES OF GAME Gram Arts $4.60 12/19/60	138 E 27 MU 6-9630	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, WTS, Post 2 Con- News, J Am
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Phoenix $4.60	189-2nd Av AL 5-0525	Two week run of revival
SHUNNED Dickens $2.20 12/20/60	20 E 9 WA 4-8400	4 Con- Times, News, J Am, WTS
WHEN I WAS CHILD 41st St $4.60 12/8/60	125 W 41 BR 9-3631	3 Pro- Times, WTS, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, News, Post
WHITE CARGO Players $4.60 12/29/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	1 Pro- News 5 Con- (No Mirror)
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING THEATRE Living $3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 con-1 pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro- Post 6/22/60 Jungle Cities-4 Pro-2 Con 12/20/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Montserrat-Gate 1/8
Rhinoceros-Longacre 1/9
Sudden End A Cinquefoil-East End 1/10
Show Girl- O Neill 1/12
Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/6
Donogoo- Tonka- G Mews 1/18
Every Other Evil- Key 1/17
Banuet for Moon-T Marquee 1/19
American Dream- York 1/23
Catstick- 1/24
Julia Jake & Uncle Joe-Booth 1/25
Midgie Purvis- Beck 1/26
Octoroon- Phoenix 1/27
How to Make a Man- 1/29
Call Right Name- 1 Sher Sq 1/30

Medium Rare- 2/6
Faust- C Center 2/7
Moon in Yellow River 2/7
13 Daughters- 2/9
King of Dark Chamber-Jan Hus 2/9

Electra- Gate 2/12
To Damascus-T East 2/13
Double Entry- 2/13
Once Was Russian- 2/15
Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21
Come Blow Your Horn-Atkinson 2/22
Far Country- 2/25
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/?

Mary, Mary - 3/8
Devil's Advocate -3/9
Big Fish, Little Fish 3/12
Donnybrook- 3/17

Happiest Girl in World-Beck 4/1
Carnival- 4/13
Carte Blanche-Shubert 5/?
Richard II- C Park 6/19
9 O Clock Theatre-Golden 10/8

"CD PROS & CONS "

PROS: All current ON & OFF Broadway except following--

CONS: Camelot, Critic's Choice, Invitation to March, Sound of Music, Tenderloin, 10th Man Beautiful Dreamer

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This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or on specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. $25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956 $25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

__ $25 check

__ Bill Co

Name........................ Address..................................

OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College------Community---- Summer

Jan 9,1961 Vol XII No 42.The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47,NYC EL 5-6894 $25 per year for full "CD" Service

College Theatre

Ondine joint production of Columbia University Players and Theatre Workshop of Sarah Lawrence College presented Jan 4-7 at Wollman Auditorium, Columbia, directed by Wilford Leach with an original full length musical score by Conrad Susa.

McCarter Theatre, Princeton, Univ, NJ, presenting Shakespeare repertory season Feb 2-Mar 25 with Association of Producing Artists. King Lear, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, As You Like It, A Midsummer Night's Dream to be presented.

Alex Solomos, director of the Greek National Theatre, will stage workshop productions of Euripides' Helen and Aristotle's Women in Assembly in Feb at Institute for Advanced Studies in the Theatre Arts.

Winter Repertory

Twin bill of Krapp's Last Tape and The Zoo Story to be presented Jan 15 by Actor's' Workshop, San Francisco with Joe E Brown in the Beckett one man play.

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Jan 9, 1961 NYC THEATRE FACT CHART- CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E 47, NYC-- EL 5-6894
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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway & Off Broadway shows. Top week endprices, opening dates listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7NYC reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past weeks. Thus 100% B Cap $80-$80- means show was a sellout this week at $80000, last week's gross was $70,000, etc.

* NOTE: Grosses are from previous week, not last week.
****

ADVISE & CONSENT Cort $7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	70% C- 2 Con- Times, Post- 4 raves 90% B - Cap $40--$33 $36 $38 $38 $38
ALL WAY HOME Belasco $7.50 11/30/60	111 W 44 JU 6-7950	70% C- 2 Con- News, WTS 40% B - Cap $38--$14 $15 $26
BECKET Royale $7.50 10/5/60	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	90% C- 4 raves-1 Con- Times X B- Cap $59- X- Moved from St James
BEST MAN Morosco $7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 55% B- Cap $40--$23 $20 $29 $26 $28
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St $8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con- Times- raves from rest 75% B- Cap $60--$46 $37 $49 $51 $52
CAMELOT Majestic $9.40 12/3/60	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	40% C- 3 Pro- News, WTS, J Am 100% B- Cap $83--$84 $84 $83 $82 $82
CRITICS CHOICE Barrymore $7.50 12/14/60	247 W 47 CI 6-0390	40% C- 3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 50% B- Cap $40--$22 $22
DO RE MI St James $9.40 12/26/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 1 Con- WTS 5 raves-Times mild 100% C- Cap $69--$69
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 80% B- Cap $58--$47 $43 $54 $55 $55
49th COUSIN Ambass $6.90 10/27/60	215 W 45 CO 5-1855	30% C- 2 Pro- Times, News 50% B- Cap $32--$15 $21 $24 $23 $22 $22
GYPSY Imperial $9.40 5/2/59	249 W45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book X- Cap $64-- X $24 $29 $29 $39 $47
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box $7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 35% B- Cap $40--$13 $21 $29 $23 $24
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth $8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap $49--$48 $48 $49 $45 $49
MIKE & ELAINE Golden $6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap $30--$30 $26 $30 $30 $30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves- Times, WTS milder 65% B - Cap $38--$25 $21 $30 $28 $31 $33
MUSIC MAN Broadway $8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves H Trib milder 30% B- Cap $72--$25 $25 $34 $30 $44
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls 50% B- Cap $70--$35 $28 $40 $40 $48 $45
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes $7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C- 2 Con- Times, WTS 30% B - Cap $43--$14 $15 $24 $23 $27
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $74--$75 $75 $75 $75 $75
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum $6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 55% B- Cap $32--$18 $19 $25 $28 $25 $26
TENDERLOIN 46th St $8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro- News, WTS (both raves) 55 % B- Cap $64--$36 $47 $60 $60 $54
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves-Times, News 50% B- Cap $32--$16 $11 $15 $14 $18 $16
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 35% B- Cap $40--$12 $12 $16 $15 $19
UNDER YUM YUM Miller $7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	40% C- 3 Pro- News, Times, WTS 25% B- Cap $40--$10 $12 $16 $15 $19
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden $9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 85% B- Cap $68--$52 $60 $65 $56 $63
THE WALL Rose $7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro- raves-Times, News, WTS 30% B - Cap $46--$15 $15 $20 $21 $23
WILDCAT Alvin $9.40 12/16/60	250W 52 CI 5-5226	40% C- 3 Pro- News, Mir, WTS 85% B- Cap$65--$58

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-9450	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BEAUTIFUL DREAMER Mad Av $4.60 12/27/60	120 Mad. MU 6-8574	5 Pro- 1 Con- J Am (No Mirror)
BALLET BALLADS East 74- $4.40 1/3/61	334 E 74 LE 5-5557	4 Pro- Times, News, WTS, J Am 2 Con- H Trib, Post
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane $4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm. CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
EPITAPH G. DILLON Actor Play $4.60 12/28/60	100-7th Av S OR 4-1036	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib, (No Mirror)
HEDDA GABLER 4th St $4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves Anne Meacham
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket $4.60 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- (No Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
THE MIRACLE Bway Chapel 12/4/60	211 W 56 CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Times- 1 Con- WTS Sun 5 PM Only to 2/5
MOUSETRAP Maidman $5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- News, WTS
PREMISE Premise $4.60 11/22/60	154 Bleecker LF 3-5020	3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 3 Con- Times, H Trib, Post
RULES OF GAME Gram Arts $4.60 12/19/60	138 E 27 MU 6-9630	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, WTS, Post 2 Con- News, J Am
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Phoenix $4.60	189-2nd Av AL 5-0525	Two week run of revival
SHUNNED Dickens $2.20 12/20/60	20 E 9 WA 4-8400	4 Con- Times, News, J Am, WTS
WHEN I WAS CHILD 41st St $4.60 12/8/60	125 W 41 BR 9-3631	3 Pro- Times, WTS, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, News, Post
WHITE CARGO Players $4.60 12/29/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	1 Pro- News 5 Con- (No Mirror)
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING THEATRE Living $3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 con-1 pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro- Post 6/22/60 Jungle Cities-4 Pro-2 Con 12/20/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Montserrat-Gate 1/8
Rhinoceros-Longacre 1/9
Sudden End A Cinquefoil-East End 1/10
Show Girl- O Neill 1/12
Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/6
Donogoo- Tonka- G Mews 1/18
Every Other Evil- Key 1/17
Banuet for Moon-T Marquee 1/19
American Dream- York 1/23
Catstick- 1/24
Julia Jake & Uncle Joe-Booth 1/25
Midgie Purvis- Beck 1/26
Octoroon- Phoenix 1/27
How to Make a Man- 1/29
Call Right Name- 1 Sher Sq 1/30

Medium Rare- 2/6
Faust- C Center 2/7
Moon in Yellow River 2/7
13 Daughters- 2/9
King of Dark Chamber-Jan Hus 2/9

Electra- Gate 2/12
To Damascus-T East 2/13
Double Entry- 2/13
Once Was Russian- 2/15
Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21
Come Blow Your Horn-Atkinson 2/22
Far Country- 2/25
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/?

Mary, Mary - 3/8
Devil's Advocate -3/9
Big Fish, Little Fish 3/12
Donnybrook- 3/17

Happiest Girl in World-Beck 4/1
Carnival- 4/13
Carte Blanche-Shubert 5/?
Richard II- C Park 6/19
9 O Clock Theatre-Golden 10/8

"CD PROS & CONS "

PROS: All current ON & OFF Broadway except following--

CONS: Camelot, Critic's Choice, Invitation to March, Sound of Music, Tenderloin, 10th Man Beautiful Dreamer

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This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or on specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. $25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956 $25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

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__ Bill Co

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OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College------Community---- Summer

Jan 9, 1961 Vol XII No 42. The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894 $25 per year for full "CD" Service

College Theatre

Ondine joint production of Columbia University Players and Theatre Workshop of Sarah Lawrence College presented Jan 4-7 at Wollman Auditorium, Columbia, directed by Wilford Leach with an original full length musical score by Conrad Susa.

McCarter Theatre, Princeton, Univ, NJ, presenting Shakespeare repertory season Feb 2-Mar 25 with Association of Producing Artists. King Lear, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, As You Like It, A Midsummer Night's Dream to be presented.

Alex Solomos, director of the Greek National Theatre, will stage workshop productions of Euripides' Helen and Aristotle's Women in Assembly in Feb at Institute for Advanced Studies in the Theatre Arts.

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FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

The Front Page-Times Square Theatre (215 W 42) 8/14/28. Unanimous pros, mostly raves, filed on new comedy by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, presented by Jed Harris, directed by George S. Kaufman with Lee Tracy as "Hildy Johnson", Osgood Perkins as "Walter Burns", Allen Jenkins, Eduardo Ciannelli, Dorothy Stickney, Frances Fuller. Famed newspaper comedy was the first play of the season and marked the first "official " staging credit for Kaufman. A little theatre favorite , the programs usually come in the form of mock "extras". It was presented last week by NYC's Equity Library Theatre. Its sole Broadway revival was in Sept 1946 when it was presented by Hunt Stromberg, Jr and Thomas Spengler with co-author Charles MacArthur directing. Cast included Lew Parker and Arnold Moss in the two leading roles, and also Ray Walston, Olive Deering, Pat Harrington. Two films were made from the story, one with Adolph Menjou and Pat O'Brien, the other with Rosalind Russell as a female "Hildy."

Times- J Brooks Atkinson- breathless melodrama superimposed upon a good newspaper play packs the evening with loud, rapid, coarse and unfailing entertainment. Racy story told with all the tang of front-page journalism directed resourcefully, acted in vernacular and lurid key, entire cast wielded into a seamless performance.

HeraldTribune- Percy Hammond- swift, humorous, rowdy satire. Some first nighters troubled by prevalence of bad language in dialogue, but authors forced to do so in interest of truth. Suspect they will be changes after reform authorities step in, but meanwhile it is a complete glossary of profanity, useful to those who wish to learn the art.

World- Alison Smith- as breath taking an event as ever dropped, with or without warning, into a becalmed Aug on Broadway. Unbelievably exciting opening recaptures mockery, disillusion, fierce unreasoning loyalty of dusty, clattering, smoke filled world of "Press" which is rapidly passing. Masterpiece of direction of true and unerring lines. Cast perfect.

New Yorker- E. B. White- fine melodrama written in idion of fraternity, unexpuragated , parades the vulgarity, the humor, the feverish vitality , the banality of modern journalism. Only thing wrong is the perfection. Result of Harris-Kaufman technique is a scientific product of such amazing vigor and precision that it's just a little unbelievable. Authenticity carried in rapid extremes becomes spurious in effect. But fault pales before terrific gusto, truth and fun.

Nation- Heywood Broun- play would remain excellent entertainment if every doubtful word were scratched from the script. But it would not be as good a play and if any revision takes place reviewer will be among the dissenters. Doubt if a skillful author create the same effect of violent expression without any use of words that worry the most fastidious, Shakespeare included.

* *

LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: The Whole Darn Shooting Match a comedy by Jack Perry will be presented Apr 3 by Anthony Parella starring Joey Adams, directed by Jack Whiting... Donogoo-Tonka has moved debut from Jan 16 to Jan 18... There is A Play Tonight an unproduced play by Ferenc Molnar to be first tenant Feb 6 of new 144 seat Jewel Box Theatre, 420 W 42nd St...Sarah Marshall to co-star with Hal March in Come Blow Your Horn due Feb 22...Diana Corso moved from chorus to ingenue lead opposite Ed Kenney in 13 Daughters...Barry Fitzgerald, 72, died in Dublin nursing home...Oliver musical version of "Oliver Twist" with music, book, lyrics by Lionel Bart, current London hit, to be first presentation in NY next season of David Merrick...Marilyn Monroe may star in NBC-TV production of Rain, with her $100,000 fee donated to Actors Studio...The Best Man display ad states " Kennedy saw it, Nehru saw it, Truman saw it..Have You?" ...When I Was A Child closed after 38 performances... Bonnie Lee Arditti replaced Liza Rolland, Shunned.

NEW OFF BWAY THEATRE: Irving Maidman has leased the basement of the Paramount Hotel, 226 W 46, the former site of "Diamond Horseshoe" night club to be converted into a 299 seat theatre, designed by Russell Patterson. This will be Maidman's fourth mid-town small playhouse.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"Miracle in the Evening" autobiography of Norman Bel Geddes (Doubleday $4.95) is the most interesting recent book on theatre, recommends Chapman, News. Volume is a reminder of what a remarkable fellow the stage designer was, and a recap of what he did for the theatre as well as in it. It is a remarkable story even though it covers only part of an incredibly busy and intellectually lively life.

"Play-Making, a Manuel of Craftsmenship" by William Archer with a new introduction by John Gassner(Dover-$1.75) approved by Aston, World Telegram & Sun. Archer text itself has become something of a classic, and the new introduction is very interesting in itself.

* *